

Farm to School

Purpose

OSU Extension (OSUE) provides statewide leadership to Ohio Farm to School (OFS). The OFS program fosters procurement of local foods and promotes activities that help students understand where food comes from and how food choices affect their health, environment, and community. Extension's OFS Advisory Group includes government agencies, industry associations, and nonprofit organizations. OSUE serves as Ohio's leader in the National Farm to School Network and a contact for the USDA Farm to School Program.

Impact

Of the 616 Ohio school districts, 409 completed the 2013 Farm to School Census. One-third of responding districts reported they participate in Farm to School, indicating need for further growth.

A total of nearly 300 educators, food service professionals, and producers attended the six regional Farm to School workshops hosted by OSU Extension in 2014 to gain knowledge, resources, connections, and inspiration.

Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved

OSU Extension program areas:

Family and Consumer Sciences,
Community Development,
4-H Youth Development, and
Agriculture and Natural
Resources.

Community Partners Involved

Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Farm Bureau
Action for Healthy Kids
American Dairy Association
Organizations participating in local
and regional Food Councils

Across Ohio, OSU Extension, farmers/producers, and public health professionals collaborate in Farm to School partnerships and events, such as "School to Farm Road Trips" and "Farm to Family Nights."



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